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BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



ANNUAL REPORTS
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
For the Year
1950.



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HEALTH AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE, 1950.

Councillor S. Kermode (Chairman).

Her Worship The Mayor
(Councillor Mrs. E. Wallis Power).

Alderman A. V. Northover.

Councillor G. L. Cazalet.

Councillor W. E. Morgan.

Councillor Miss E. I. Padwick.

Councillor J. W. Richardson.

Councillor K. Smith.

Councillor R. W. Smith.

Councillor J. Vaughan.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. J. N. McNab, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

F. Le V. Friend, S.R.N., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

A. F. Saunders, M.S.I.A.

J. H. Stokes, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1950.

To The MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS
of the BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

I submit for your information and consideration my fourth Annual Report on the health and circumstances of your Borough.

Appended to this report is that of your Chief Sanitary Inspector in which he deals in detail with those sections of the work of the Health Department which are peculiarly his province.

The National Health Service completed its second full year of working without showing any improvement in many of the matters which had caused complaint or disquiet. General Practitioners have become more and more restless over the increase in their work, its changed character, and the failure to reach agreement over payment; the virtual elimination of all General Practitioner participation in hospital work has caused much bitterness; the increasing torrent of medicine consumed by the nation has produced no evidence of corresponding improvement in health; waiting lists at hospitals, both for consultation and for admission, have reached astronomical proportions; Local Authority priority dental services have continued to decline; public health as a profession for medical men has become increasingly unpopular; immunisation and vaccination figures have remained unsatisfactory; and the cost of the scheme has risen year by year.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Borough is an L shaped town sandwiched between the Avon and the Stour on the west, and between the railway and the sea towards the east. The western part is largely built up apart from low lying ground near the Avon, and future development must necessarily be between the old town and Highcliffe. The subsoil of the area is principally of sand and gravel which dries out rapidly after rain but in spite of this, because of the two rivers and the expanse of water in the land-locked harbour, the general atmosphere of the town tends to be damp in winter, and somewhat humid in hot weather.

The town presents notable contrasts between its ancient buildings and its modern factories, new housing, and caravan sites, and the cows ambling through its streets obstructing a tremendous flow of through traffic, ranging from private cars and buses to massive tank transporters and earth moving vehicles.

There is a considerable amount of varied light industry in addition to two government establishments and an aircraft factory. Unemployment is at a very low level.

RAINFALL FOR 1950:

January	0.67	July	4.14
February	4.21	August	1.74
March	1.19	September	2.50
April	2.10	October	0.98
May	1.87	November	5.56
June	1.43	December... ..	2.11

Total: 28.5 inches.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 5,198 acres.
Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1950:
19,500.
Number of inhabited houses: 6,266.
Rateable Value, 31/3/50: £170,093.
Sum represented by a penny rate: £687 9s. 5d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950 (as supplied by the Registrar-General):

Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Total	300	163	137
Legitimate	285	156	129
Illegitimate	15	7	8

Still Births.			
Total	7	3	4
Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	2	1	1

Deaths.			
Total	246	115	131

Infant Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

Total	5	2	3
Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

(Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age).

Total	4	2	2
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from puerperal causes	0	-	0
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COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	Borough of Christchurch.	England and Wales.
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Birth Rate

(Comparability Factor .98).

per 1,000 estimated population	15.4	15.8
after application of comparability factor	15.09	

Stillbirth Rate.

per 1,000 estimated population	0.36	0.37
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Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.73).

per 1,000 estimated population	12.6	11.6
after application of comparability factor	9.2	

Infant Mortality Rate.

(Under 1 year of age).

all causes per 1,000 live births	16.6	29.8
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Maternal Mortality Rate.

per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	0.00	0.86
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Special Causes.

Death rate per 1,000 population :

Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.20	0.10
Smallpox	—	—
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.36
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis ...	0.00	0.02
Pneumonia	0.05	0.46

Year.	Population.	Borough of Christchurch.			England & Wales.		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1929	8,728	49.0	18.6	11.1	74	16.3	13.4
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65	15.3	12.0
1936	13,080	53.1	15.8	12.2	59	14.8	12.1
1940	15,330	24.7	13.1	12.8	55	14.6	14.3
1944	14,810	30.0	22.3	14.2	46	17.6	11.6
1945	16,680	36.1	18.3	11.7	46	16.1	11.4
1946	17,760	29.5	18.5	12.3	43	19.1	11.5
1947	18,180	30.0	19.7	12.76	41	20.5	12.0
1948	19,190	16.0	16.1	11.25	34	17.9	10.8
1949	19,040	37.0	17.0	13.7	32	16.7	11.7
1950	19,500	16.6	15.4	12.6	30	15.8	11.6

Causes of Death.

	Males.	Females.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
8. Measles	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0
16. Diabetes	2	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	22
18. Coronary disease, angina	17	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	8
20. Other heart disease	24	24
21. Other circulatory disease	3	3
22. Influenza	2	2
23. Pneumonia	1	0
24. Bronchitis	3	4
25. Other disease of respiratory system	3	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	0	0
34. All other accidents	1	2
35. Suicide	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	0
TOTAL (All Causes)	115	131

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

In general the amount of infectious disease notified throughout the year was small. In particular, following the heavy outbreak of Measles in 1949, there were very few cases of this infection. There was a considerable rise however in the notifications of Whooping Cough due to an outbreak which spread throughout the town in the last quarter of the year and continued on into the early months of 1951. No deaths attributable to either disease occurred. There was an increase in the prevalence of Scarlet Fever during the second quarter of the year, many of the cases being in association with Christchurch Council Junior School. An attempt was made to find a carrier among the pupils but, though one small boy fell under suspicion, the results of the bacteriological investigation were inconclusive. The outbreak subsided when the schools closed for the summer holidays.

For the third year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified. It is worthy of record here that the County Medical Officer reports:—"For the first time since records were kept (1903) not a single case of diphtheria was notified in the County area in a period of twelve months, i.e., during the year 1950."

The table shows the notifications throughout 1950 with comparative notification rates for the whole of England and Wales.

Disease.	Number notified.	Rate per 1,000 population.	
		Borough of Christchurch.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	53	2.72	1.50
Whooping Cough	149	7.65	3.60
Diphtheria	-	-	0.02
Erysipelas	4	0.20	0.17
Measles	29	1.49	8.39
Pneumonia	5	0.25	0.70
Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ...	9	0.46	0.13
(non-paralytic)...	1	0.05	0.05
Cerebro Spinal Fever... ..	1	0.05	0.03
Food Poisoning	-	-	0.17

POLIOMYELITIS:

Poliomyelitis was again widespread throughout the country during the year, the national figures being the second highest ever recorded, second only to the 1947 outbreak. This area had its full share of cases; the majority occurred during the season of prevalence, but the one fatal case occurred in January in the person of a young man who arrived from London already suffering from the disease in an early stage. The remainder were on the whole mild in character and, though a number were left with paralysis, in none was it extensive or severe. Two cases occurred in one family of holiday makers residing on Mudeford Sandbank. In spite of close enquiry no connexion was discovered between any of the other cases, and no source of infection was ascertained.

TUBERCULOSIS:

The observation, diagnosis, treatment, and control of tuberculosis in the area is jointly organised by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. There is a Chest clinic in Christchurch at the Millhams Street Health Centre, run by Dr. Stuart Robertson, which serves the Borough of Christchurch and a surrounding area including the Borough of Lymington, most of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and a small part of the New Forest Rural District. The waiting list for Sanatorium treatment remains exceedingly lengthy though there has been a slight improvement in the past year. In addition, with the introduction of new drugs, there is more specific treatment of the disease undertaken at home than ever before. The number of new cases notified during the year has shown a considerable decrease over the figures for the previous three years, but this is not necessarily of significance.

Number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register—131.

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
63	43	13	12

New Cases and Mortality 1932 to 1950.

New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Non-				Non-	
		Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1932	...	1	7	-	3	2	3
1936	...	4	4	2	1	1	-
1940	...	10	1	2	4	5	1
1944	...	5	2	2	2	1	2
1945	...	11	4	2	2	-	2
1946	...	8	7	1	2	6	-
1947	...	19	17	1	2	2	3
1948	...	15	10	1	4	2	1
1949	...	19	9	1	2	6	2
1950	...	8	5	2	-	3	1

MASS RADIOGRAPHY:

A Mass Radiography Unit from the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, under the control of Dr. J. Stuart Robertson, visited Christchurch during December. It operated at the Health Centre in Millhams Street for a fortnight and at the British Legion Hall, Highcliffe, for a further few days. In spite of the very central situation of the Unit the public response was disappointing. The weather at the time of the visit was deplorable. The following tables showing the work carried out, together with the findings, have been kindly supplied by the Medical Director.

**MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY OF
CHRISTCHURCH AND HIGHCLIFFE GENERAL PUBLIC.
From 20th November to 15th December, 1950.**

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number examined at Christchurch	737	814	1551
Number examined at Highcliffe	68	120	188
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total attendance at both Centres	805	934	1739
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

ANALYSIS OF ADULTS EXAMINED AT BOTH CENTRES.

	Christchurch.		Highcliffe.		Total.
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
Total number X-rayed	429	718	68	120	1335
Total recalled for Large Films...	28	42	2	6	78
	(6.5%)	(5.8%)	(2.9%)	(5%)	(5.8%)
No abnormality present, or no further action considered necessary after clinical examination	21	34	1	6	62
Advised check-up X-ray at a later date	-	1	-	-	1
Referred for further investigation for abnormalities probably tuberculous in origin	5	4	1	-	10
	(1.2%)	(.5%)	(1.4%)		(.74%)
Referred for further investigation for other chest conditions	-	2	-	-	2
Did not attend for Large Film ...	2	1	-	-	3

**ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN EXAMINED AT
CHRISTCHURCH.**

(None examined at Highcliffe.)

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Total number X-rayed	308	96	404
Total Recalled for Large Films	14	2	16
	(4.5%)	(2.1%)	(3.9%)
No abnormality present, or no further action considered necessary after clinical examination	12	2	14
Referred for further investigation for abnormalities probably tuberculous in origin	-	-	-
Referred for further investigation for other chest conditions	2	-	2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

The figures of diphtheria immunisation have shown a slight improvement over those for 1949 but are still considerably below the number in 1948 when the full effects of the National Health Service Act had not been felt. It seems doubtful whether the improvement will be maintained since the public has been to some extent put off immunisation by the publicity given during the year to articles in the medical press indicating a connexion between immunisation and poliomyelitis. The danger appears to exist only at times of considerable prevalence of poliomyelitis in any particular area and the virus is not introduced by the injection, but it may be that the injection will initiate paralysis in a patient who is already incubating the disease. Such occurrences have been extremely rare and can readily be countered by temporarily ceasing to immunise children in any area in which poliomyelitis is prevalent. It has already been arranged in Hampshire that if poliomyelitis is prevalent in any particular area the local Medical Officer of Health and the County Medical Officer will consult together and, if it is thought necessary, will advise local doctors temporarily to cease to administer immunisation treatment.

During the year 293 children were immunised for the first time. Of these 234 were under the age of five and 59 were over five; 168 children previously immunised received refresher doses.

The proportion of children born within the previous 12 months who have been immunised is 63%. 73% of all children under 15 have at one time or another received immunisation treatment.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works lie wholly within the Borough boundary. The Company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, most of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of Wiltshire, part of the New Forest Rural District, and part of the Borough of Lymington. It derives its raw water from the river Avon within the Borough and treats it by slow sand filtration and chloramination.

During the year the raw water was examined 11 times with, in the main, low total counts. The Avon is a river which, unlike many used for public water supplies, is not subject to gross pollution and the quality of the water is normally remarkably constant. *B. coli* was present in one-tenth ml. in 8 of the samples and absent in one-tenth ml. in the remaining 3. The treated water was examined bacteriologically on 67 occasions with entirely satisfactory results.

The supply is constant and the water is of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Water Company's records show 5709 houses and shops to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of the examination of the water is given below :—

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 1st August,
1950, from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance : Clear and bright.

Turbidity : Nil.

Colour : 10. Odour : Nil.

pH : 7.9. Free Carbon Dioxide : 3.

Electric Conductivity : 370. Total Solids : 250

Chlorine present as Chloride : 17.

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate : 185.

Hardness : Total 225. Carbonate : 185. Non-carbonate : 40.

Nitrate Nitrogen : 2.2. Nitrite Nitrogen : Less than 0.01.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen : 0.091. Oxygen absorbed : 1.0.

Albuminoid Nitrogen : 0.033. Residual Chlorine : 0.28.

Metals : Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar :—

1 day at 37 deg.C. : 2 per ml.

2 days at 37 deg.C. : 5 per ml.

3 days at 20 deg.C. : 4 per ml.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction : Present in : Nil, ml.

Absent from : 100 ml.

Probable number : 0 per 100 ml.

Bact. coli. (Type 1) : Present in : Nil, ml.

Absent from : 100 ml.

Probable number : 0 per 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction : Present in : Nil, ml.

Absent from : 100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed—ROY C. HOATHER.

for THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

SEWERAGE:

Christchurch, in common with the vast majority of coastal authorities, disposes of its sewage by discharging it into the sea. This system of disposal is by far the cheapest method, a matter of considerable interest to the ratepayers and, in addition, when properly managed, gives rise to no nuisance and to no danger to health. Christchurch's neighbours dispose of their sewage in like fashion, and there have been complaints of pollution of the beaches. The fact is that the population of the whole area has increased markedly since the sewers were laid, most are now working at their full capacity and some outfalls have been damaged by the movement of the sea bottom. Christchurch has suffered in this way and much time and money have been expended in attempts to repair our outfall without final success.

The three authorities of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch have consulted together in the hope of evolving a mutually satisfactory joint scheme without reaching agreement. Christchurch is faced with the prospect of carrying out a scheme of its own, not only for final disposal but also to relieve the overloaded sewers in the eastern part of the town; a new outfall may have to be laid or it may prove more practicable to construct a full treatment plant on some inland site discharging a purified effluent into the River Avon.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:

The Public Health Laboratory at Poole continues to deal with all our bacteriological work, and Dr. G. J. G. King, the Director, is constantly at our disposal for consultation and advice on numerous problems which arise. His place as a valued member of the Health Department team has been the subject of comment in previous reports. I would here like to thank him again for his indispensable assistance.

Dr. King has kindly supplied the following list of work carried out by his laboratory on specimens originating from this area:—

Nose and Throat Swabs	31
Sputum	8
Faeces and Urine	2
Water	10
Milk	24
Ice Cream	164
Miscellaneous	176
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TOTAL	415
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FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

Once again it will be seen from Mr. Friend's detailed figures what an immense amount of care is taken to ensuring that food sold in the Borough is safe. This work is increasingly educational rather than compulsive and it is fair to say that public and traders alike value the service given and that, in the main, relations between the Health Department and the Trade are cordial. Unfortunate exceptions do however occur when threats or action must necessarily take the place of persuasion, and a notable example occurred during the latter part of the year when a small food trader had to close for two days while he remedied most unsatisfactory conditions in his premises.

SHELLFISH:

An investigation was conducted during the year into the state of bacterial cleanliness of mussels gathered from the beach at Mudeford. In general the results were unsatisfactory, though at a time when their state might reasonably have been expected to worsen, there was an unaccountable improvement. The conclusion was drawn that shellfish gathered from our beaches or harbour should not be eaten without being cooked.

FOOD POISONING:

For the second year in succession no case of food poisoning has been reported during the year. This is particularly noteworthy in view of the general progressive increase in the prevalence of food poisoning throughout the country as a whole.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN:

The increase in the national food poisoning figures has rightly focused public attention on this avoidable disease and the conditions under which it may arise. Before the recent war food poisoning was a relatively unimportant condition but, since 1939, it has increased year by year and is now some twenty times more prevalent than formerly. The control of such infections lies to a large extent in improved standards of food handling, both in the Trade and at home. Legislation can only point the way, education must carry the main attack. With this end in view a Clean Food Guild was established in the town in 1950. Its activities were extended throughout the year and towards the latter part plans were going ahead for a Clean Food Exhibition to be held in the Town Hall in the spring of 1951. The purpose of this Exhibition was to stress the importance of clean food handling to the public in general and still further to publicise the existence and activities of the Clean Food Guild.

Mr. Friend, who was responsible for the inception and subsequent organisation of the Guild, gives more precise details in his section of this report.

ICE CREAM:

The keenest attention has been paid throughout the year to the conditions under which ice cream is stored and sold throughout the Borough. Almost all the ice cream is manufactured outside the area but a small quantity is made by one retailer in Highcliffe. There are now 99 registered retailers. 160 samples were taken by your inspectors during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the Methylene Blue Test. It is gratifying to be able to report that a further marked improvement has taken place in the cleanliness of the samples, 89.4% falling into the satisfactory grades, 1 and 2, and no less than 70% fell into Grade 1. Only 10.6% fell into the unsatisfactory Grades, 3 and 4. This compares most favourably with former years and further goes to prove the awareness of manufacturers and retailers alike of the need for cleanliness in the manufacture and handling of this material. They are greatly to be congratulated on the progressive improvement which has been maintained, and which has been stimulated by the supervision and educative influence of public health staffs. It is notable that in this area the most consistently bad results have been obtained from small manufacturers. The big scale manufacturer has improved his methods and machinery to such an extent that a bad result is uncommon and can normally be attributed to the handler. The progressive improvement is well shown in the following table.

Ice Cream Samples since 1947.

Result of Methylene Blue Test.

Year.	No. of Samples.	SATISFACTORY.		UNSATISFACTORY.	
		Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.
1947	53	7.5%	20.8%	22.6%	49.1%
1948	72	19.4%	29.2%	32%	19.4%
1949	136	48.5%	29.4%	15.5%	6.6%
1950	160	70%	19.4%	6.9%	3.7%

SCHOOLS:

There is little fresh to record concerning the seven Council Schools within the area. In the main, overcrowding is still prevalent. Classes are too large and at most schools some classes are housed in extra-mural buildings. Part of the new infant school in Addiscombe Road was brought into use in September, though the remainder of the school was still under construction. This delightful, almost lavish, modern school make its predecessors seem all the more dismal by contrast. There is little doubt, however, that even the youngest child appreciates brightness and cheerfulness in his surroundings and reacts to them favourably. A feature of this school is the beautifully equipped hall with its extending stage and provision for a cinema.

School meals are provided at all schools, cooked in kitchens on the school premises and, with the exception of the small Roman Catholic School, served in separate dining halls. In the case of the Roman Catholic School meals are served in the class rooms, an undesirable procedure which it is hoped shortly to remedy. Canteen workers have attended classes in hygienic food handling, organised by the Education Authority.

CHILD WELFARE:

The County, as the Child Welfare Authority, continues to run two Child Welfare Centres in the Borough, one in the Health Centre at Millhams Street, which is open all day every Tuesday, and the other in St. Mark's Hall, Highcliffe, on the afternoon of the third Friday in each month. The clinics are attended by Assistant County Medical Officers and by the Area Health Visitors. Advice is given on infant management but no actual treatment is undertaken; where this is indicated the child is referred to his own private doctor. Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out and certain infant foods are sold at clinic prices.

The clinics are administered by committees formed of voluntary workers who carry out most of the duties of a non-medical nature, for example, they keep the records, sell the infant foods, and organise the teas; without their assistance it would be impossible to conduct such clinics. Once again, I pay my tribute to their sterling worth and express my heartfelt gratitude for their continued help.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1943, SECTION 47:

No action was taken under this section during the year.

One old man, against whom action might have been taken, was persuaded to enter local authority accommodation voluntarily. Two old women who were considered for action were eventually certified as of unsound mind and removed to a mental hospital.

The difficulty over the limitation of the term "insanitary conditions," on which I commented in last year's report, has been felt again this year.

The general problem of aged persons, particularly the chronic sick, has been repeatedly brought to notice throughout the year owing to the acute shortage of hospital beds for such cases. There are significant numbers of infirm aged persons for whom it is difficult or impossible to provide adequate care at home, and who cannot receive hospital treatment in spite of every plea that is made. Because they are infirm they cannot be admitted to local authority accommodation. The result is that many must remain at home in circumstances of acute discomfort and distress, both to themselves and to their relatives. A small number with mild senile mental confusion are committed to mental hospitals but

this would be unnecessary if general hospital beds were available. The problem was not felt so acutely prior to the coming into force of the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act. At that time a relieving officer could always obtain a bed in a public assistance institution for a necessitous patient.

The solution of the problem must be in a more generous provision of beds for the aged chronic sick. Such beds do not require the same proportion of trained staff that is necessary for the acute sick since many of the cases only require rest in bed and general hygienic care.

NURSERIES:

There remains only one private residential nursery in the town wherein, however, all the beds are reserved for Local Authority cases.

Two other residential nurseries are run by the Red Cross Society.

One private day nursery was opened during the year.

The County Council continues to maintain the Day Nursery in the Square House, where 38 under school age children of working mothers are cared for during working hours.

ILLEGITIMACY:

The illegitimacy rate has further fallen to 50 per 1,000 live births. This is the lowest figure reached since the peak of 144 in 1945. No deaths occurred among illegitimate infants under one year of age.

SCABIES:

Cases of scabies in small numbers continue to be treated at the Health Centre in Millhams Street. Only 5 cases from Christchurch were dealt with throughout the year.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT:

The following figures, showing the state of employment and unemployment within the Christchurch Employment Exchange area which, in addition to the Borough of Christchurch, includes Hurn and Holmsley, have been kindly supplied by Mr. C. A. Mitchell, the Manager of Christchurch Employment Exchange. The unemployment figures do not include young persons under the age of 18 years.

1. The number of persons over 18 years of age registered as

unemployed at the Christchurch Employment Exchange during 1950 were as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
January	186	84
February	174	86
March	155	83
April	125	62
May	107	65
June	83	44
July	93	33
August	85	36
September	87	36
October	105	66
November	133	55
December	154	89

2. The approximate numbers of insured employees in the Christchurch area at mid 1950 based on the number of National Insurance cards exchanged by the Christchurch National Insurance Office were as follows:—

Industry	Males		Females		Total
	18 and over	Under 18	18 and over	Under 18	
Transport and Communication	748	24	166	4	942
Building & contracting	894	116	27	4	1,041
Vehicles (including Aircraft)	914	28	142	20	1,104
Catering, Hotels	116	4	304	24	448
Agriculture and Horticulture	319	28	45	8	400
Nat. Govt. Service... ..	229	37	-	-	266
Retail D'tribution of Food and Drink	147	-	84	16	247
Retail D'tribution of Non-Food Goods	62	8	68	28	166
Local Govt. S'vice	178	12	64	8	262
Other Industries	1,842	112	1,112	120	3,186
TOTALS	5,449	369	2,012	232	8,062

3. Approximate percentage of male and female workers over 18 years of age who were registered as unemployed.

1950.	Males.	Females.
March	2.8	4.1
June	1.5	2.2
September	1.6	1.8
December	2.8	4.4

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough has been satisfactory throughout the year.

There has been no abnormal incidence of infectious disease.

The continued absence of Food Poisoning is a pleasing feature. The activities of the Clean Food Guild are worthy of special mention.

The estimated population further increased.

The Birth Rate decreased and was a little below that for the country as a whole.

The Infant Mortality Rate again fell sharply and was only a little above the 1948 record low figure.

The Death Rate fell but it was, as usual, higher than the figure for the whole country.

The housing problem remains acute in spite of the proud position the town holds in the forefront of comparable housing authorities, 238 Council houses and 66 private enterprise houses were built during the year. In spite of this the waiting list for Council houses stands at 1,000.

The rehousing of the hut dwellers at Holmsley remains a priority undertaking. The contrast between the rents of these temporary dwellings and those of new Council houses has proved a serious obstacle to rehousing in some cases.

Sewage disposal has become a matter for concern.

In conclusion, I wish once again to express my gratitude to the Mayor and Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, to my colleagues in other departments for their assistance, and in particular to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their help and pleasant co-operation throughout the year.

D. J. N. McNAB.

July, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1950.

To The MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS
of the BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my tenth Annual Report in which brief reference is made to some of the more important aspects of the work of the Department. The report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1950. Tables dealing with income and expenditure are for the Financial Year April, 1950, to March, 1951.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population shows a slight increase on the previous year, the present figure being 19,500. I would again remind members of the Council that this figure does not include residents at Holmsley, and that the summer population is considerably in excess of the figure quoted.

Apart from the normal routine work of the department, attention has again been focussed on housing; food preparation and distribution; and rodent control.

Table 1 gives details of these and other inspections, and a comparison with the Table appearing in last year's report will reveal a substantial increase in the total number of inspections.

As in previous years, the report is set out under various headings, and for reasons of economy in the use of paper, references to other than special matters are only briefly stated.

1. HOUSING—SLUM CLEARANCE:

There is little I can add to the remarks appearing in previous reports. Fortunately, the number of properties of this type in your Borough is very small and cannot be said to present a problem. The owners maintain them to the best of their ability but they are naturally reluctant to spend large sums on property which will eventually have to be demolished. This is a problem facing all local authorities to-day and one to which there is no ready answer.

2. HOUSING—RECONDITIONING:—

Work of this nature is indeed a problem of these days of restricted rents and rising costs—a problem which faces so many owners and one to which there is no easy solution. Quite naturally, tenants expect the property they occupy to be maintained in a good state of repair but they give little or no thought to the oft unhappy financial position of the person who has to meet the cost of such repairs. The problem is not quite so acute

where better class property is concerned, for the tenants of this type of house usually help themselves to a very great extent and call on the landlord to carry out only such repairs as are beyond their capabilities.

A very different tale has to be told of the smaller type of property letting at an inclusive rental of anything from 6/- to 10/- weekly. This type of property is invariably that needing most attention, and unless he is well blessed financially, the owner is just incapable of meeting the costs involved.

An overall increase in rents is not necessarily the solution to this problem. Such an increase, if based on the principle adopted after the first world war, would certainly benefit the owners of good property letting at high rentals—with the occupier frequently responsible for all interior repairs and decorations. What of the poorer class property, however? Even assuming that a 50% increase in rent was allowed, on a house letting at 7/6, or less, a week—and there are thousands throughout the country—this would place an additional sum of £9/15/0 at the disposal of the landlord. Of these days of very high costs—this sum would not go far to remedy the many defects in this type of property.

It would be to the advantage of the tenant in the long run if he met part of the cost of carrying out essential repairs as opposed to a substantial increase in rent which would have to be met for as long as the tenancy continues.

These are matters which must be dealt with by the department concerned and it is to be hoped that some decision will be reached in the near future, bearing in mind the difficulties confronting local authority officers to-day.

3. HOUSING—OVERCROWDING:—

Overcrowding as defined in Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936, does not present a problem in your area, for of 554 houses inspected during the year, only 2 were found to be overcrowded. The average man or woman, however, is not concerned with legal definitions which attempt to prove that there is sufficient space available in the house they occupy. What they are concerned with and anxious to obtain, is a home of their own where they are not required to herd together in one living room and share essential facilities with others; where their right to have a family and the security which every married couple is entitled to expect, is not denied them. It is on this basis that they view the conditions under which they are living, and although not overcrowded as visualised in the Housing Act, they feel they are entitled to some degree of privacy and this accounts for the very large number of applicants on the Council's Housing List who claim they are living in "overcrowded" conditions.

4. HOUSING—ALLOCATION:

There are 6,266 houses in your district and the estimated population is 19,500. Therefore, the average number of persons per house is 3.13. As the majority of houses in the area are comparatively new and modern in design and equipment, the degree of overcrowding should be relatively low and the number of applicants on the Housing List claiming overcrowded conditions equally small. In point of fact, most of the applicants on the list claim that they are overcrowded, but as stated in Section 3 of this report, they have a very definite conception of the meaning of this term.

It is apparent from returns prepared by the Housing Officer, reproduced below, that despite the very large number of Council houses erected, the situation is not improving, for the number of applicants has risen from 1012 in 1949, to 1057 in 1951.

This is a matter of serious concern to the Council, for much as one may wish to see the area increasing in size and importance, the very vital question of subsidies must not be overlooked. For a town of this size, and with a population largely made up of retired persons, the effect of a large number of Council houses on the rate is little short of disastrous.

It is of course easy to criticise and I wish it was equally as easy to suggest a remedy. Unfortunately, there is no ready-made cure for the housing shortage and one can only assume that the construction of Council houses will have to go on until the demand has been met.

- 374 Families were rehoused during the year. Of this number :
 - 92 were housed at Holmsley.
 - 21 were housed in requisitioned properties.
 - 261 were housed in new properties.

There are 228 families, with a total of 761 persons, temporarily housed at Holmsley.

The following table shows the size and number of families awaiting rehousing:—

No. in Family.	No. of Applicants.
9	2
8	2
7	6
6	20
5	50
4	139
3	224
2	260
1	29
	<hr/>
	732
	<hr/>

The 228 families temporarily housed at Holmsley are made up as follows:—

No. in Family.	No. of Applicants.
9	2
8	1
7	2
6	7
5	18
4	61
3	77
2	54
1	6
	<hr/>
	228
	<hr/>

97 Families are housed in requisitioned properties.

5. FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:--

Attention has again been focused on the preparation, storage and distribution of food as evidenced by the fact that 2,506 visits have been made to premises of this type. It is only very occasionally that your inspectors have found it necessary to warn traders of some slight contravention for, on the whole, food traders in your area maintain a high standard of cleanliness and are justifiably proud of the attractive appearance of their premises.

I am anxious that all food premises should conform to the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act in so far as the provision of hot water and washing facilities are concerned. The majority of shopkeepers have provided a constant hot water supply and fitted wash-hand basins.

In my report for 1949, I stated that 39 premises were not provided with what I would term a constant supply of hot water and satisfactory wash basins. These premises have a hot water supply and basins of sorts, but these do not come up to the standard of other premises. Your inspectors have continued to press these points and the number without these facilities has been reduced to 20.

All Public Houses have been inspected during the year, particular attention having been paid to methods of storage and to the suitability and cleanliness of beer engines. These inspections have left me satisfied that in this class of trade also, the traders do all they can to ensure the cleanliness and purity of the products they sell. Every Public House in the area has been awarded the Clean Food Guild Certificate.

6. **SAMPLING :**

Sampling is undertaken by the County Council and Mr. Perry, Chief Sampling Officer, has again furnished me with a list of the articles sampled during the year. This list is reproduced hereunder :—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

“ The following is a list of the samples taken in your area under the above Act during the year ended 31st March, 1951. All the samples were satisfactory.

Article.	No. Taken.
Butter and other Fats	5
Drugs	2
Milk	56
Sausage and other Meat Products	4
Spirits	3
Other Foods	9

Total	79

The 56 samples of milk proved to contain an average of 3.72% of Milk Fat and 8.93% of non-fatty solids.”

(Signed) C. O. PERRY,
Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures.

Table 2 shows the articles of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

7. **CLEAN FOOD GUILD:—**

It is an acknowledged fact that there is always room for advancement in the preparation and distribution of food, and with this in mind the Minister of Food has given his blessing to Clean Food Campaigns and Guilds.

The Christchurch Clean Food Guild was first formed in March, 1950, and from its inception has received the full and constant support of the majority of the traders who have made an all-out effort to conform with the very high standards of cleanliness set out in the Codes of Practice approved by the Clean Food Guild Committee. The Committee has met regularly during the year to receive recommendations for membership; discuss progress reports and generally sustain interest in the Guild which has grown from strength to strength and now has a membership of 152, equivalent to 77% of the food premises in your area. This is a position of which the Council and traders alike may well be proud. The Clean Food Guild Committee is naturally anxious that all food premises should qualify for membership, and with this end in view your inspectors continue to press the matter with the occupiers of premises not yet in the Guild

8. CLEAN FOOD EXHIBITION:—

A very successful exhibition was held in April, 1951, and though not in the period covered by this report, I think it advisable to refer to it whilst the matter is still fresh in the minds of those who were in any way connected with it.

The object of the exhibition was to bring home to the public the importance of the clean handling of food, not only at the place of production and distribution, but in the home also.

The exhibition was arranged by the Clean Food Guild Committee in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; the Ministry of Food and the Christchurch and District Chamber of Trade.

The stands depicted a variety of subjects all of which were in one way or other connected with the handling and storage of food. The Committee were supported in their efforts by the Southern Gas and Electricity Boards and by many large firms in various parts of the country. Prominent amongst these were Messrs. Malmesbury & Parsons Dairies Ltd., of Bournemouth; J. Lyons & Company (Ice Cream Manufacture); Cooper McDougall; Newton Chambers; Kelvinator Ltd. The Public Health Laboratory Service also equipped and staffed a stand showing the work undertaken to assist local authorities in their task of ensuring the maintenance of a healthy community.

The exhibition which cost the Council the very modest sum of £35, was well attended, and it is felt that the effort was well worthwhile and that the 6,000 or so who visited the exhibition appreciated the work done by the local authority to ensure the wholesomeness of the food distributed in the area.

9. SLAUGHTERHOUSES:—

The three slaughterhouses in your area are but infrequently used. All slaughtering is now carried out at Poole.

10. DAIRIES:—

A great deal of attention has again been given to these premises, 291 inspections having been made during the year.

On the whole, these premises are very well managed and the dairymen endeavour to keep abreast of the times.

One dairyman has now installed Pasteurising Plant and every sample taken has proved satisfactory.

Two dairymen who previously bottled milk now receive their supply ready-bottled from the Oakdale Creameries. This reduces handling and the consequent risk of contamination, and it is hoped that this scheme will be extended to all dairies in your area.

180 Bottles were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and the counts varied from 1 to 100,000 the average being 1498. This high average was due to neglect on the part of one dairyman who consistently threw up very high counts. Bottles washed by the inspector for the district produced counts of 3, 3, and 240 respectively, and satisfied the dairyman that his methods were at fault. This matter is being carefully watched.

11. ICE CREAM:—

A great deal of attention has again been given to these premises, and I am satisfied that manufacturers and retailers alike are fully aware of their responsibilities to the public and are doing all in their power to ensure the purity and wholesomeness of their product.

As I believe the Medical Officer of Health is reporting on the results of samples taken I will not enlarge on this subject.

12. DRAINAGE:—

The department continued to be responsible for the testing of all drains other than those of new Council houses which are dealt with by the Clerk of Works on the larger estates, and by the Building Inspector in other cases. I do not consider divided control a good thing, and it does seem somewhat superfluous to have three departments dealing with the same sort of work. As far as I am aware, no records of tests are maintained in respect of these properties, whereas all tests applied by the Public Health Department are recorded in a Register kept for the purpose. In most towns, all drainage and plumbing work is supervised by the Public Health Department, and I suggest this is the correct procedure.

In my report for 1949, I stated that there were 197 properties not connected to the sewer, these properties being provided with the following facilities:—

- 29 draining to Septic Tanks.
- 73 draining to Cesspools.
- 86 with Bucket Latrines.
- 3 with Elsans.

This number has now been reduced to 147 made up as follows:

- 23 draining to Septic Tanks.
- 53 draining to Cesspools.
- 50 with Bucket Latrines.
- 21 with Elsans.

Of this number, only 16 can be connected to existing sewers, and because of their remote and scattered nature, it is very doubtful whether the remaining 131 will ever be connected to a sewer unless unforeseen developments justifying the laying of sewers should take place in the areas concerned.

13. MOVABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:—

There are now 11 Sites in your area with a total permitted number of 520 moveable dwellings. One would assume that this would be sufficient to meet the demand for this type of accommodation, particularly when one considers the number of licensed sites just beyond the Borough boundaries. The number is obviously quite insufficient, and a month rarely goes by without my having to report some contravention of some sort or other. Christchurch, because of its good beaches and safe bathing, is becoming popular as a holiday resort, with a consequent large influx of visitors who, either from choice or financial considerations, prefer to use caravans. There is neither the means nor the wish to prevent these people coming to your area, and space must therefore be found on which they can be reasonably accommodated. This can be done in one of two ways. Either by increasing the permitted number of dwellings on the various sites, or alternatively the setting up of one or more new camps.

It is unfortunate that the control of these sites has, to some extent, passed to the Planning Authority. Due to its remoteness, this Authority cannot exercise the same degree of supervision which was formerly given by local authority staffs. Contraventions of the licences granted by the Planning Authority do not appear to be followed up with the zest they deserve.

All the camp sites in your district are provided with modern Sanitary Conveniences, and in 3 cases bathrooms have also been provided.

Other than overcrowding at times, I have no adverse comments to make on these Sites, which are well-run and kept in good condition.

14. PUBLIC CLEANSING:—

(a) Refuse Collection:

With the continued growth of the town and the construction of a very large number of new properties, it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain the service with the existing staff and transport, both of which are working to capacity. Staffing difficulties are occasioned by the much more attractive wages offered by government and other establishments in the area, several members of the staff having left your employ during the year.

Generally speaking however, the men responsible for this work have been loyal and have carried out what is acknowledged to be an unpleasant task, efficiently, unobtrusively, and with the minimum of inconvenience to the public. When one considers the appalling winter conditions under which these men have had to work—conditions which very frequently resulted in the men being

wet through several times a day—it is surprising that only 224 man days, or an average of 11.2 days per man, were lost through sickness and accident during the year. This is something of which the men and their employers have every right to be proud; and I sincerely hope that the present staff will remain in the service of the Council.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year—additional collections—varying from 2 to 4 per week—being made from trade premises. Only 25 complaints of non-removal of refuse were received during the year. These were dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

The collection of refuse from the temporary housing estate at Holmsley, where approximately 1,000 persons are housed, has been continued on behalf of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council. The cost of this service is re-charged.

The transport at my disposal for all purposes, including the collection of kitchen waste and concentrate, consists of 1 Morris; 2 Bedfords; the Lewin and the Shelvoke and Drewry. The Morris is now 13 years old and in need of a complete overhaul. The engine is in a really bad state and the body work requires complete reconstruction. This work will have to be put in hand very soon if the vehicle is to be maintained in a roadworthy state.

Table 10 gives details of the cost of this service.

A study of this table reveals an increase of approximately £1,000 over the previous year. This is partly accounted for by the putting into service of an additional vehicle rendered necessary by the large building programme undertaken by the Council; a substantial increase in wages and in the cost of petrol, repairs and insurance. Fortunately, this is partly offset by the comparatively large increase in revenue from salvage, and it will be seen by reference to the unit costs in Table 10 that there has been a reduction in costs per 1,000 premises for both collection and disposal, and only a very minor increase in both cases per 1,000 population.

(b) Refuse Disposal:

Following on the adverse remarks which I felt compelled to make in my previous report, the Council agreed that the time had come for a complete overhaul of the system of refuse disposal, and that the unsatisfactory conditions then obtaining could not be permitted to continue. As the result of discussions and an inspection of the tip, I was authorised to purchase an M.R. 20 Angledozer, and procure sufficient suitable covering material to dispose of refuse in accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations.

I took delivery of the Angledozer early in December, and within a matter of weeks the ugly mass of uncovered refuse was levelled out and covered down with ash obtained from the Poole Gas Works.

The Angledozer has simplified the work considerably and the reclaimed area is, naturally, much more attractive and the process free from nuisance.

Naturally, the use of machinery adds to the costs. This is partly offset by the fact that all refuse is now deposited on the surface and not over the side of the tip as heretofore; all materials—such as paper, rags and metals—are sorted out and taken to the Salvage Depot. What remains is then pushed over the side and covered down.

I am satisfied that the effort is well worth while and the value of this work will be reflected in the increased revenue from salvage.

I am grateful to the Council for acceding to my request for mechanical aid in the disposal of refuse, and I am more than satisfied that the machine will pay a handsome dividend if only in the reduction of damage to lorry tyres which to-day cost upwards of £25 each.

15. SALVAGE:—

Materials of this class are an important source of revenue, a source which I am anxious to see maintained for a considerable time to come. There was a period in 1949, when due to an incorrect assessment of the position, salvage lost its value and it was just impossible to dispose of it. Fortunately, the market has recovered and every available scrap of paper, metals and rags now finds a ready and profitable market. As already stated under the heading of Refuse Disposal, arrangements have been made whereby any materials of a salvable nature which have been placed in refuse bins, are recovered prior to being covered down. Every effort is made to ensure that nothing which may be of any value is disposed of other than through the Salvage Scheme.

The revenue from this source for the current year is considerably in excess of that for the previous year, and as a matter of interest, and to pinpoint the importance of the Salvage Scheme as a source of revenue, the gross income for the years 1940 to 1950 is shown in the following table:—

Year.	£	s.	d.
1940	368	10	7
1941	745	15	9
1942	1,735	16	1
1943	1,272	6	3
1944	1,002	9	4
1945	830	4	10
1946	747	11	10
1947	1,006	16	3

Year.	£	s.	d.
1948	1,921	0	2
1949	1,044	1	5
1950	1,702	0	9
	<hr/> £12,376 13 3 <hr/>		

16. KITCHEN WASTE:—

The collection of this material has never proved a paying proposition in your area. This is partly due to the fact that many of the householders just will not place their kitchen waste in the bins provided, and in scores of cases have refused the special individual containers offered them. A large amount of waste is collected by pig and poultry keepers and an almost equally large amount is placed in the dustbins. The biggest offenders in this respect are the residents on the Council's large estate at Somerford.

The swill produced by the various schools in the Borough was also lost as Heads of schools were instructed by the County Council to sell the material. This matter has been taken up with the County Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with a view to collections being resumed. It is hoped that these negotiations will prove successful.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that there has been a drop in tonnage and income as shown in Tables 12, 13 and 14.

17. RODENT CONTROL:—

There has been a further large increase in the number of rats picked up after poisoning and in the estimated total killed. In 1949 the figures were 317 and 943 respectively. This year the numbers have increased to 409 and 1,210.

Considering that your Rodent Officer has in no way "let up" on this work it may be difficult to account for the increase in the rat population. However, if one bears in mind the low-lying nature of parts of the district and the fact that quite large areas are subject to flooding, I think the increase can be attributed to the abnormally wet winter and the severe gales which resulted in flooding of the marsh and other inaccessible areas where rats might be expected to breed. Following on the flooding of these areas, the rats have come inland where it has been possible to deal with them.

A further survey of the sewers has revealed a minor infestation in a few sections. On the whole the sewers are comparatively free of this pest.

The charges for this service are 2/6 for private, and cost plus establishment charges for business premises.

The cost of the service remains fairly constant, being £168 for the current year as against £167 for 1949.

18. DISINFECTING STATION:—

Very little use has been made of the disinfecting apparatus during the year, only 134 articles having been treated. The bulk of these were from the Council's beach huts.

19. COMPLAINTS:—

443 Complaints were dealt with during the year. Table 5 shows the nature of these complaints.

20. VERMINOUS PREMISES:—

Complaints of this nature have again been few, and of the 6 cases dealt with during the year, 2 were in respect of bugs, and 4 related to flea infestation. The affected premises were treated with Zaldecide D.D.T., and further inspections proved the treatment successful.

21. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS:—

Tables 10 and 11 show in detail the cost of collection and disposal of refuse and lorry operating costs.

22. CONCLUSION:—

I wish to express my thanks to Her Worship The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. E. Wallis Power); the Chairman of the Public Health Committee (Councillor S. Kermode); the Town Clerk; the Medical Officer of Health, and to the staff of my department for their co-operation and support.

Your obedient Servant,

Town Hall,
Christchurch.
August, 1951.

FRANCIS LE V. FRIEND.
Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

TABLE I.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Control of Civil Building Visits	78
Revisits	51
Housing Visits	110
Revisits	230
Housing—Allocation	466
Housing—Overcrowding	733
Drainage Visits	334
Revisits	671
Nuisances	173
Revisits	667
Unsound Food	167
Revisits	25
Food Premises	1,813
Revisits	501
Ice Cream	618
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	116
Revisits	140
Bottlewashing Samples	151
Milk Samples	30
Infectious Diseases	53
Revisits	11
Verminous Premises	26
Factories	158
Revisits	96
Outworkers	35
Factory and School Canteens	21
Public Conveniences	45
Vans, Tents, etc.	126
Revisits	304
Camping Sites	112
Shops (Shops Act)	374
Offices	42
Hawkers	55
Refuse Collection and Disposal	454
Salvage and Kitchen Waste	205
Rodent Control	526
Revisits	1,672
Closet Accommodation	27
Water Supply	3
Miscellaneous	565

11,984

TABLE 2.

ARTICLES OF FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR.

Soup Powders (Mouldiness)	11	tins.
Soup Squares (Mouldiness)	7	doz.
Tomatoes (Blown and damaged containers)	14	tins.
Chicken Soup (Blown)	1	tin.
Cod Roes (Decomposed)	2½	stone.
Tomato Soup (Blown)	3	tins.
Vegetable Soup (Rusted and Perforated Container) ...	1	tin.
Pea Soup (Unpalatable)	75	tins.
Meat Soup (Unpalatable)	5	tins.
Scotch Broth Soup (Blown)	3	tins.
Brawn (Blown)	12	tins.
Mexican Meat in Gravy (Decomposed)	31	tins.
Peas (Blown)	50	tins.
Fondant (Infested with Ants)	18	ozs.
Beans (Blown and Damaged Containers)	26	tins.
Semolina (Weevil)	36	lbs.
Custard Powder (Fouled by Dog)	7	lbs.
Sliced Beetroot (Blown)	1	tin.
Bacon (Decomposed)	23	lbs.
Grapes (Blown)	4	tins.
Milk (Blown)	196	tins.
Plums (Blown and Damaged Tins)	46	tins.
Pine Apple Jelly (Blown and Damaged Tins)	1	tin.
Lemon Curd (Sour and Mouldy)	12	lbs.
Carrots (Blown)	5	tins.
Luncheon Meat (Blown and Mouldy)	174	tins.
Pilchards (Damaged Container and Blown)	21	tins.
Sardines (Blown)	57	tins.
Salmon (Blown and Decomposed)	9	tins.
Crawfish (Blown)	6	tins.
Chow (Blown)	4	tins.
Ox Tongues (Blown)	2	tins.
Pale Cheese (Contaminated)	2½	lbs.
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce (Blown)	2	tins.
Biscuits (Contaminated)	19	lbs.
Cooking Fat (Contaminated with mouse droppings) ...	280	lbs.
Butter Beans (Blown)	8	tins.
Pickle (Metallic Contamination)	45	jars.
Liquid Mustard (Decomposed)	61	jars.
Plum Jam (Blown)	20	tins.
Kippers (Blown)	1	box.
Beef Loaf (Blown)	2	tins.
Apples (Blown)	3	tins.
Sandwich Spread (Contaminated)	4	jars.
Meat Paste (Mouldy)	7	jars.

TABLE 2 (Continued).

Cherries (Fermented)	2	tins.
Mussels (Blown)	20	tins.
Pears (Perforated)	1	tin.
Jelly Crystals (Liquifaction and Mould)	34	pkts.
Apricot Pulp (Blown)	2	tins.
Lunch Tongues (Decomposition)	1	tin.
Jellied Veal (Blown)	10	tins.
Mixed Vegetables (Blown)	1	tin.
Piccalilli (Mouldy)	1	jar.
Pickled Red Cabbage (Mouldy)	1	jar.
Gooseberries in Syrup (Blown)	14	tins.
Stewed Steak (Blown)	1	tin.
Pork (Decomposed)	2	tins.
Strawberries in Syrup (Blown)	3	tins.
Herrings (Blown)	11	tins.
Crab (Damaged Container)	1	tin.
Peaches (Blown)	7	tins.
Canned Fruit (Blown)	2	tins.
Rice (Heavily Infested with Weevil)	1	cwt.
Coarse Cut Barley (Heavily Infested with Weevil) ...	28	lbs.
Macaroni (Heavily Infested with Weevil)	14	lbs.
Demerara Sugar (Contaminated)	52	lbs.
Lentils (Heavily Infested with Weevil)	42	lbs.
Gravy Browning (Contaminated)	27	lbs.
Gelatine (Contaminated)	4	lbs.
Ground Almond Substitute (Heavily Infested with Weevil)	5	lbs.
White Beans (Heavily Infested with Weevil)	105	lbs.
Pom Potato Powder (Heavily Infested with Weevil) ...	120	pkts.
Orange Marmalade (Blown)	2	tins.
Damsons (Blown)	2	tins.
Peach Jam (Blown)	3	tins.
Veal and Ham Loaf (Blown)	1	tin.
Apricots in Syrup (Contaminated by Glass)	1	jar.
Hind Quarter Beef (Bone Taint and Decomposition)...	940 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Corned Beef (Blown and Decomposed)	115	tins.
Boneless Beef (Slimy and Souring)	12	lbs.
Sheep's Heads (Sour)	11	lbs.
Sheep's Liver (Decomposing and Cirrhosis)	6	lbs.
Bullocks Head (Abscessed)	50	lbs.
Ewe Mutton Carcase (Fatty Infiltration)	44	lbs.

TABLE 3.

MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following is a Summary of the particulars as recorded in the Registers at the 31st December, 1950.

No. of cowkeepers who are also retailers of milk	3
No. of persons registered as Distributors of milk	20
No. of persons resident outside the district retailing milk in the area	6

TABLE 4.

RECORD OF NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the Department:—

(a) DRAINAGE:

No. of New Premises drained	122
No. of Houses and premises redrained	13
Repairs or amendments to existing drains	58
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed	27
Length in yards of stoneware drains laid	4,448
Length in yards of cast iron drains laid	19
Manholes provided	250
New manhole covers	243
Intercepting Traps fixed	75
New gully traps fixed	266
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	83
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	2
Water tests applied	335
Smoke tests applied	70
Colour tests applied	2
Cesspools abolished	20
Cesspools emptied	7
Septic Tanks constructed	1
Septic Tanks abolished	6

TABLE 4 (Continued).

(b) SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND FITTINGS:

New W.C. Accommodation provided	100
New W.C. Apartments provided	48
New W.C. Pedestals provided	53
W.C's cleansed	11
New flushing cisterns provided	47
Flushing cisterns repaired	3
Baths provided	68
Sinks provided	66
Lavatory basins provided	107
New Waste Pipes trapped	221
Existing Waste Pipes trapped	1
Pail Closets and/or middens abolished	18

(c) MISCELLANEOUS:

Houses provided with through ventilation	--
New roofs provided	—
Roofs repaired	30
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	15
Stack pipes provided	—
Stack pipes disconnected or repaired	3
Damp walls remedied	53
Ventilation under floors provided	1
Yards paved	—
Yards repaired	2
Floors of rooms relaid	7
Floors of rooms repaired	28
New windows provided	5
Windows repaired and/or made to open	22
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	72
Doors repaired or renewed	21
Ventilated Food Stores provided	—
Staircases provided or repaired	1
Dustbins provided	65
Nuisances—Overcrowding, abated	—
,, —Smoke	3
,, —Animals	14
,, —Accumulation of manure and refuse	6
Workrooms cleansed and repaired	12
Cowsheds and dairies cleansed	10
Grates, ranges, coppers, renewed or repaired	20
Rooms disinfected	67
Rooms disinfested	22
Premises sprayed as a Precautionary measure	138
Insufficient water supply	—
Bakehouses cleansed	4
Fish Fryers' premises cleansed	3

TABLE 5.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 443 Complaints were received as detailed below :—

Nature of Complaint.	No. Received.
Choked drains	26
Defective roofs	15
Dilapidations	19
Defective Water Supply	5
Dampness	21
Overflowing Cesspits	1
Defective Lavatory Basins	1
Absence of Water Closets	2
Defective Water Closets	6
Defective Sinks	3
Defective Flushing Cisterns	2
Absence of Dustbins	56
Animals	4
Smells	17
Non-removal of refuse	25
Accumulation of refuse	7
Dirty Conditions	3
Verminous Premises	2
Fleas	4
Overcrowding	4
Defective Flues	2
Food	75
Rats	98
Defective Fireplaces	3
Smoke	5
Poor Quality of Milk	2
Insects	10
Conveniences	4
Drains discharging into river	1
Miscellaneous	20
	<hr/>
	443
	<hr/>

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED.

Table 6 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

TABLE 6.

Number of Notices Served.

Notices	Out-standing 31/12/49	Number served	C'plied with	Work done by L.A. in default	Out-standing 31/12/50
Informal ...	44	65	89	—	20
Statutory ...	8	15	17	—	6
Total ...	52	80	106	—	26

Summary of Statutory Notices Served:

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936	4
Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	11

HOUSING STATISTICS.

TABLE 7.

HOUSING ACT, 1936,—OVERCROWDING.

- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Not precisely known
2. Number of families dwelling therein 732
3. Number of persons dwelling therein 2,223
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 223
- (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 261
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 885
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report —

TABLE 8.

RECORD OF PETROL AND OIL CONSUMED

BY REFUSE LORRIES

DURING THE PERIODS 1949/50 AND 1950/51.

1949/50 Month.	PETROL. (Gallons).							Monthly Totals	OIL. (Pints).							Monthly Totals.
	LORRY					Angle dozer	Van		LORRY					Angle- dozer	van	
	1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5			
Apr.	123	70	128	20	—	—	—	341	6	7	8	3	—	—	—	24
May	131	56	158	20	—	—	—	365	12	16	38	2	—	—	—	68
June	72	55	86	92	—	—	—	305	4	6	4	8	—	—	—	22
July	101	29	145	66	—	—	—	341	6	4	4	2	—	—	—	16
Aug.	91	77	168	—	—	—	—	336	6	12	6	—	—	—	—	24
Sept.	88	84	177	23	—	—	—	372	6	18	8	—	—	—	—	32
Oct.	97	66	132	5	—	—	—	300	16	6	36	—	—	—	—	58
Nov.	13	88	143	50	—	—	—	294	—	8	3	8	—	—	—	19
Dec.	13	70	154	66	—	—	3	306	—	10	6	2	—	—	—	18
Jan.	89	84	165	31	—	—	—	369	10	8	6	2	—	—	—	26
Feb.	82	72	136	18	—	—	2½	310½	10	6	12	—	—	—	—	28
Mar.	91	100	155	30	—	—	3	379	6	13	36	12	—	—	—	67
Total	991	851	1747	421	—	—	8½	4018½	82	114	167	39	—	—	—	402
1950/51																
Apr.	64	82	140	13	—	—	—	299	16	12	11	—	—	—	—	39
May	70	89	156	38	—	—	4	357	4	17	13	2	—	—	—	36
June	70	80	177	33	20	—	—	380	4	10	10	2	—	—	—	26
July	25	93	140	12	61	—	3	334	10	14	38	—	—	—	—	62
Aug.	34	120	148	12	85	—	—	399	—	10	8	2	—	—	—	20
Sept.	12	113	135	13	80	—	—	353	2	8	14	—	—	—	—	24
Oct.	36	111	134	6	80	—	—	367	4	12	17	2	20	—	—	55
Nov.	1	98	168	—	100	—	—	367	—	20	40	—	—	—	—	60
Dec.	27	62	170	12	90	30½	—	391½	6	16	6	—	—	24	—	52
Jan.	136	72	136	50	90	36	4	524	12	18	10	—	—	19	—	59
Feb.	96	96	156	24	70	36	4	482	10	14	6	—	20	16	—	66
Mar.	84	84	155	18	70	30	4	445	4	1	10	—	—	3	—	18
Total	655	1100	1815	231	746	132½	19	4698½	72	152	183	8	40	62	—	517

TABLE 3.

RECORD OF SALVAGE TRANSACTIONS DURING THE PERIOD

1st APRIL, 1950, TO 31st MARCH, 1951.

Month.	Paper.			Textiles.			Metals.			Bones.		Value £ s. d.
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	C.	Q.	
April	13	12	1	1	19	2	2	8	1	0	—	103 11 8
May	19	10	1	2	0	2	0	0	3	8	1 1 21	131 7 9
June	15	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81 5 2
July	14	11	1	2	5	0	0	1	1	25	—	119 14 11
August	14	19	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	82 18 4
September	16	5	1	1	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	117 17 10
October	17	10	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	122 17 8
November	11	19	0	1	8	1	0	0	1	1	—	122 19 10
December	9	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67 2 5
January	19	6	3	1	2	1	1	1	17	1 Battery	—	231 6 1
February	20	16	0	0	11	3	3	8	2	0	—	278 16 7
March	16	8	1	1	4	2	0	1	1	13	—	242 2 6
TOTALS	189	5	1	11	17	3	6	0	2	19	1 1 21	£1702 0 9

TABLE 10.
PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.
DETAILS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE,
YEAR ENDING 31st March, 1951.

No.	Item.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	REFUSE COLLECTION :		
1.	Wages of Foreman	148 11 7	
2.	Wages of Drivers	935 10 5	
3.	Wages of Loaders	2,566 2 3	
4.	Wages of Salvage Packers ...	476 16 8	
5.	Protective Clothing	40 8 11	
6.	Transport Charges	2,489 8 3	
			6,656 18 1
	REFUSE DISPOSAL :		
7.	Wages	438 18 5	
8.	Angledozer Operating Costs ...	73 16 10	
9.	Protective Clothing	1 10 0	
10.	Tools, Implements, etc.	170 7 7	
			684 12 10
	Gross Expenditure—Collection & Disposal ...		7,341 10 11
	Less Gross Income—Collection & Disposal ...		2,133 18 5
	Net Expenditure—Collection & Disposal... ..		£5,207 12 6

COLLECTION.

Estimated Population (June, 1950), including Holmsley—20,500.

Number of Houses and Shop Premises—7,220.

Net cost per 1,000 Premises—£625.

Net cost per 1,000 Population—£220 : 12 : 6.

DISPOSAL.

Net cost per 1,000 Premises—£94 : 16 : 8.

Net cost per 1,000 Population—£33 : 6 : 8.

TABLE 11.
SUMMARY OF OPERATING COSTS OF CORPORATION'S REFUSE AND SALVAGE LORRIES
1st APRIL, 1950, TO 31st MARCH, 1951.

Lorry No.	Drivers' Wages.	Petrol & Oil.	Insurance & Tax	Repairs.	Deprecia- tion.	Cleaning & Greasing.	Workmen's Clothing	Total Cost	No. Working days.	Total Mileage.	Total Petrol Consump.(gals.)	M.P.G.	Cost per Mile.	d.	Cost per Hour.	Cost per Day.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.					d.	d.		£ s. d.
1	181 16 11	98 3 4	70 18 3	146 13 9	130 0 0	9 1 0	—	636 13 3	141	4462	655	6.81	33.97	123.18	4 10 4	
2	284 3 4	163 2 4	70 13 3	204 15 11	130 0 0	9 15 7	1 17 9	864 8 2	260	8047	1100	7.31	25.78	102.00	3 14 10	
3	305 9 2	259 0 1	117 0 0	305 19 11	225 0 0	46 12 11	—	1259 2 1	243	4670	1815	2.59	64.71	141.36	5 3 8	
4	52 4 1	41 6 7	49 8 4	9 6 7	65 0 0	0 8 6	—	217 14 1	46	1614	231	7.00	32.37	129.00	4 14 8	
5	231 16 11	114 8 6	112 0 1	30 17 9	270 0 0	22 5 3	—	781 8 6	206	5084	746	6.81	36.88	103.41	3 15 10	
TOTAL	1055 10 5	676 0 10	419 19 11	697 13 11	820 0 0	88 3 31	17 9	3759 6 1								

TABLE 12.

RECORD OF KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTIONS AND SALES

during the period 1st April, 1950, to 31st March, 1951.

Month.	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Value.		
					£	s.	d.
April	10	1	0	0	28	7	10
May	8	12	1	0	24	6	6
June	7	8	1	0	21	13	9
July	7	6	2	0	20	13	10
August	10	11	0	0	29	16	1
September	10	15	1	0	30	8	0
October	9	3	2	0	25	18	5
November	8	5	3	0	23	8	3
December	5	7	0	0	15	2	4
January	9	5	1	0	26	3	4
February	7	1	1	0	19	19	0
March	6	3	1	0	17	8	2
TOTALS	100	0	1	0	£283	5	6

TABLE 13.

RECORD OF "CONCENTRATE" SOLD TO PIG AND
POULTRY KEEPERS.

Month.	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Value.		
					£	s.	d.
April	6	14	0	0	49	8	8
May	5	19	0	0	44	16	8
June	5	1	0	0	37	18	4
July	5	10	0	0	41	14	4
August	5	13	0	0	42	10	4
September	7	9	0	0	55	8	4
October	7	9	0	0	55	12	0
November	4	18	0	0	36	13	4
December	4	1	0	0	30	7	8
January	5	12	0	0	41	18	8
February	4	18	0	0	36	9	4
March	3	19	0	0	29	10	0
TOTALS	67	3	0	0	£502	7	8

TABLE 14.

**KITCHEN WASTE AND CONCENTRATE
COLLECTION AND DELIVERY COSTS,**

Period 1st April, 1950, to 31st March, 1951.

No.	Item.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Gross Income:		
	Collection and Disposal	785 13 2	785 13 2
	Less Gross Expenditure:		
1.	Payments for Swill... ..	47 11 2	
2.	Payments for Concentrate... ..	410 13 3	
3.	Transport (including Driver)... ..	334 7 5	
4.	Wages (Additional Labour)	43 17 0	
5.	6 Dustbins from Store	4 17 0	841 5 10
	Net Loss—Collection and Disposal		£55 12 8

TABLE 15.

RODENT CONTROL.

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE, Year ending 31st March, 1951.

No.	Item.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1.	Bait	6 18 9	
2.	Poison	2 16 9	
3.	Stationery	1 12 6	
4.	Bicycle repairs	2 15 0	
5.	Salary of Assistant Rodent Officer	332 15 9	346 18 9
	Gross Expenditure—Destruction of Rats ...		346 18 9
	Gross Income—Destruction of Rats		178 13 0
	Net Expenditure—Destruction of Rats ...		£168 5 9

TABLE 16.

RODENT CONTROL.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Month.	No. of Premises Inspected.	No. of Points Baited.				Bait Taken.			Bodies Recovered.	Estimated Total Kill.
		Prebait.	Poison.	Postbait.	Prebait.	Poison.	Postbait.			
January	227	498	93	296	402	79	—	18	63	
February	163	527	99	381	393	92	—	43	89	
March	222	643	189	525	598	186	—	39	132	
April	150	337	64	318	254	59	6	32	89	
May	175	428	90	202	347	83	7	17	63	
June	163	342	96	288	273	85	9	17	61	
July	107	455	35	200	239	33	15	24	54	
August	106	627	152	472	388	138	—	31	109	
September	195	600	136	238	541	130	12	42	96	
October	331	349	93	189	325	86	—	25	97	
November	227	1233	297	1227	1114	241	—	69	209	
December	132	722	162	226	577	148	8	52	148	
TOTALS	2198	6761	1506	4562	5451	1360	57	409	1210	

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1939 FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspec- tions.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	37	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	84	121	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	118	158	2	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	12	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	3	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	5	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	7	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	30	26	—	2	—

OUTWORKER SECTION—NIL.